

MARFIN AND S-K GRANT RESEARCH PROJECTS ON ATLANTIC HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES (HMS)

Information on general research and grant programs can be found on-line at <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/grants.htm>.

Marine Fisheries Initiative Grant Program

The Marine Fisheries Initiative (MARFIN) Grant Program promotes and endorses programs which seek to optimize economic and social benefits from marine fishery resources through cooperative efforts of the Southeast Region. Preference is given to cooperative planning efforts with up to three-year horizons. The intent is to focus MARFIN projects into cooperative efforts that provide clear answers for fishery needs covered by the NMFS Strategic Plan. Information on MARFIN projects can be found on-line at <http://caldera.sero.nmfs.gov/grants/programs/marfin.htm>. The following summarizes information contained in the 2002 Annual Report, which can be found on-line at <http://caldera.sero.nmfs.gov/grants/programs/anrpt02.pdf>.

Pending Grants

Project Title: Development of DNA Microsatellites for Genetic Applications in Cobia (*Rachycentron canadum*)
Investigator: John Gold
Affiliation: Texas Agricultural Experimental Station
Telephone: 979-845-5777

Project Title: Characterization of Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Stock Structure using Stable 13C and 18O Isotopes in Otoliths
Investigator: Jay Rooker
Affiliation: Texas A&M Research Foundation
Telephone: 409-740-4744

Project Title: The Role of the Charleston Bump in the Life History of Southeastern U.S. Marine Fishes
Investigator: George Sedberry
Affiliation: South Carolina Dept. of Natural Resources
Telephone: 843-953-9814

Project Title: Billfish Tagging in the Charleston Bump Complex
Investigator: George Sedberry
Affiliation: South Carolina Dept. of Natural Resources
Telephone: 843-953-9814

Project Title: Highly Migratory Shark Fisheries Research by the National Shark Research Consortium
Investigator: Robert Hueter
Affiliation: Mote Marine Laboratory
Telephone: 941-388-4441

Project Title: Cooperative Shark Research in the Southeast Region by the Center for Shark Research
Investigator: Robert Hueter
Affiliation: Mote Marine Laboratory
Telephone: 941-388-4441

Southeast Fisheries Science Center

Project title: Cooperative Research on Essential Habitat Requirement for Blue and White Marlin and Associated Bycatch Species.

Investigator(s): E. Prince (NMFS/SEFSC), R. Cowan (U Miami), making use of chartered U.S. longline vessel and recreational fishing vessel as research platforms

Project title: Cooperative Research on Development of Gear Modifications and Fishing Practices to Reduce Turtle Takes in US Atlantic Pelagic Longline Fisheries.

Investigator(s): J. Watson (NMFS/SEFSC), making use of chartered US longline vessels as research platforms

Saltonstall-Kennedy Grant Program

The Saltonstall-Kennedy (S-K) Grant Program is capitalized through annual transfers by the Secretary of Agriculture to the Secretary of Commerce of amounts equal to 30 percent of the gross receipts collected under the customs laws on imports of fish and fish products. All projects are 12 to 18 months in length. Funded projects may reapply in subsequent years for continued funding. All funded projects are required to submit a final report. Information on S-K projects can be found on-line at <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfweb/skhome.html>. The following summarizes information contained in the 2002 S-K Report to Congress, which can be found on-line at <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfweb/news.htm> in pdf or wordperfect format.

Pending Grants

Project Title: Use of Otolith Microconstituent Analysis to Characterize Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Stock Structure.

Investigator: University of Maryland, Solomons, MD

Grant Number: NA16FD2290 NMFS Contact: Kenneth Beal, Northeast Region (978-281-9267)

Project Title: Population Structure Analysis of Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Using Hypervariable, Nuclear DNA Markers.

Investigator: Virginia Institute of Marine Science, Gloucester Point, VA

Grant Number: NA16FD2294 NMFS Contact: Kenneth Beal, Northeast Region (978-281-9267)

Project Title: Reducing Blue Shark Bycatch in Pelagic Longline Fisheries.

Investigator: Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries, Boston, MA

Grant Number: NA16FD2297 NMFS Contact: Kenneth Beal, Northeast Region (978-281-9267)

Project Title: Development of a Vessel Buyout Business Plan for the Southeastern U.S. Commercial Shark Fishery.

Investigator: Gulf & South Atlantic Fisheries Foundation, Tampa, FL

Grant Number: NA17FD2367 NMFS Contact: Ellie Roche, Southeast Region (727-570-5324)

Project Title: A Delineation of Winter Nursery Grounds, Migratory Patterns, and Critical Habitat of Juvenile Sandbar Sharks, *Carcharhinus plumbeus*, in the Western Atlantic Ocean.

Investigator: Virginia Institute of Marine Science, Gloucester Point, VA

Grant Number: NA17FD2365 NMFS Contact: Ellie Roche, Southeast Region (727-570-5324)

Project Title: Can Leatherback Sea Turtle Bycatch Be Reduced in the Swordfish Longline Fishery by Modifying Fishing Methods?

Investigator: Pflieger Institute of Environmental Research, Oceanside, CA

Grant Number: NA16FD2470 NMFS Contact: Patricia Donley, Southwest Region (562-980-4030)

Project Title: Test of Two Stock Hypothesis for Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Using Otolith Elemental Fingerprints.

Investigator: University of Maryland, Cambridge, MD

Grant Number: NA96FD0071 NMFS Contact: Kenneth Beal, Northeast Region (978-281-9267)

Project Title: Assessment of Natal Origin and Stock Structure of Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Using Otolith Elemental Fingerprints.

Investigator: Jay Rooker

Affiliation: Texas A&M Research Foundation, College Station, TX

Grant Number: NA07FD0176 NMFS Contact: Ellie Roche, Southeast Region (727-570-5324)

Project Title: Spatial and Temporal Analyses of Genetic Variability in Bigeye and Yellowfin Tuna Larvae.

Investigator: Jaime Alvarado Bremer

Affiliation: University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC

Grant Number: NA97FD0064 NMFS Contact: Ellie Roche, Southeast Region (727-570-5324)

Completed Grants

Project Title: Development of Hypervariable, Nuclear DNA Markers for Population Structure Analysis of Atlantic Bluefin Tuna.

Investigator: Virginia Institute of Marine Science, Gloucester Point, VA

Grant Number: NA97FD0063 NMFS Contact: Ellie Roche, Southeast Region (727-570-5324)